Expenses for Republic Day Celebrations

140. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expense incurred for conducting the Republic Day and Beating the Retreat ceremonies in Delhi every year;

(b) what is the budget allocation for the ceremony;

(c) what is the total collection made by sale of tickets for these ceremonies;

(d) whether Government propose to curtail these expenses and make a brief and short ceremony in the future thereby diverting these funds for the welfare and betterment of the Armed Forces conditions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Although the Ministry of Defence is responsible for organizing the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat Ceremony at New Delhi every year, the organization of these ceremonies requires co-ordinated efforts of various Central Ministries and Departments, the State Governments, the Union Territory Administrations, the Central Public Sector Undertaking, Local Bodies and various other agencies. As expenditure on various items regarding these arrangements is borne by the concerned organizations/agencies from their own budget allocations and is not compiled or exhibited under one Head of Account, it is not possible to indicate the total amount spent on these ceremonies in Delhi every year.

The collection from the Sale of Tickets of the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat Ceremony varies from year to year. The total collection from the sale of tickets for the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat Ceremony 2008 was Rs. 17,63,021/-

The Ministry of Defence has not taken any specific decision to shorten the duration of the Republic Day Parade and related ceremonies. However, there were some suggestions to reduce the duration of time. The duration of the national functions organized by the Ministry of Defence is determined by taking into account the time requirements for the ceremonial, military and cultural aspects with due consideration to engaging the spectators' interest. There is no proposal with the Government to divert any funds pertaining to the Republic Day Celebrations for the welfare and betterment of the Armed Forces conditions.

Hunderson Brook Report on 1962 Indo-China war

141. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hunderson Brook Report on 1962 Indo-Sino war still remains classified and unreleased; and

(b) if so, whether Government would not think that it is in public interest that this report be declassified and made available to the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the sensitivity of information contained in the report and its security implications, the report has not been recommended to be declassified in the National Security interest.